

Amnat Charoen



Amnat Charoen

Amnat Charoen





amazing
THAILAND
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Wat Phra Lao Thep Nimit



CONTENTS

HOW TO GET THERE	8
ATTRACTI0NS	9
<i>Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen</i>	9
<i>Amphoe Chanuman</i>	14
<i>Amphoe Pathum Ratchawongsa</i>	18
<i>Amphoe Phana</i>	19
<i>Amphoe Lue Amnat</i>	22
<i>Amphoe Hua Tapahan</i>	23
MAJOR EVENTS	25
LOCAL PRODUCTS AND SOUVENIRS SHOPS	27
SUGGESTED ITINERARY	28
MAPS	30
USEFUL CALLS	34
TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS	35



Huai Si Tho Reservoir

Amnat Charoen



Wat Tham Saeng Phet

Thai Term Glossary

Amphoe	: District
Ban	: Village
Hat	: Beach
Khuean	: Dam
Maenam	: River
Mueang	: Town or City
Phrathat	: Pagoda, Stupa
Prang	: Corn-shaped tower or sanctuary
SAO	: Subdistrict Administrative Organization
Soi	: Alley
Song Thaeo	: Pick-up trucks but with a roof over the back
Talat	: Market
Tambon	: Subdistrict
Tham	: Cave

Tuk-Tuks	: Three-wheeled motorized taxis
Ubosot or Bot	: Ordination hall in a temple
Wihan	: Image hall in a temple
Wat	: Temple
<i>Note: English spelling here given tries to approximate Thai Pronunciation. Posted signs may be spelled differently. When seeking help for direction, point to the Thai spelling given after each place name.</i>	

Amnat Charoen, situated in the Northeast of Thailand, covers an area of approximately 3,161 square kilometres. The town was established in the reign of King Rama III of the Rattanakosin period. First, it was attached to Khemmarat city but later to Ubon Ratchathani province, from which it was separated and announced as the 75th province of the country on 1 December, 1993.

In spite of being a small quiet town, Amnat Charoen features wonderful attractions including beautiful temples and nature as well as handicrafts by the local people.

With one side adjacent to the Mekong River as a 38-kilometre-long border with the Lao People's Democratic Republic in Amphoe Chanuman, the province consists of seven districts; namely, Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen, Amphoe Senangkhanikhom, Amphoe Chanuman, Amphoe Pathum Ratchawongsa, Amphoe Phana, Amphoe Lue Amnat and Amphoe Hua Taphan.

Distances from Amnat Charoen to nearby provinces

Mukdahan	88 kilometres
Ubon Ratchathani	75 kilometres
Yasothon	54 kilometres

Distance from Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen to other districts

Amphoe Chanuman	81 kilometres
Amphoe Hua Taphan	38 kilometres
Amphoe Lue Amnat	22 kilometres
Amphoe Pathum Ratchawongsa	33 kilometres
Amphoe Phana	42 kilometres
Amphoe Senangkhanikhom	22 kilometres

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car: From Bangkok, take Highway No. 1 (Phahonyothin Road) and get into Highway No. 2 (Mitraphap Road) at Saraburi, drive through Nakhon Ratchasima. After that take Highway No. 226, Nakhon Ratchasima-Surin, then take Highway No. 214, Surin-Amphoe Suwannaphum, turn right into Highway

No. 202 via Yasothon and Amphoe Pa Tio to Amnat Charoen. This route is totally 585 kilometres.

By Bus: From the Northern Bus Terminal Chatuchak (Kamphaeng Phet II Road) in Bangkok. There are many bus to Amnat Charoen everyday. For more information contact:

- *The Transport Co., Ltd.* Tel. 1490, 0 2936 2852-66, Amnat Charoen Branch Tel. 08 8366 4185 www.transport.co.th.
- *Nakhon Chai Air Co., Ltd.* Tel. 1624 www.nca.co.th.

For more information, please contact Amnat Charoen Bus Station Tel. 0 4545 2511

By Train: A train service is available from the Bangkok Railway Station (Hua Lamphong) to Ubon Ratchathani Railway Station everyday. For more information, Tel. 1690, 0 2220 4334, 0 2220 4444 www.railway.co.th. And Ubon Ratchathani Railway Station Tel. 0 4532 1004.

By Air: There are many airlines operating flights from Bangkok to Ubon Ratchathani Airport, as follows:

From Donmueang International Airport

- *Nok Air* Tel. 1318, 0 2900 9955, website : www.nokair.com
- *Thai Air Asia* Tel. 0 2515 9999, website : www.airasia.com
- *Thai Lion Air* Tel. 0 2529 9999, website : www.lionairthai.com

From Suvarnabhumi International Airport

- *Thai Airways International* Tel. 0 2356 1111, website : www.thaiairways.com
- *Thai Smile Airways* Tel. 1181, 0 2118 8888, website : www.thaismileair.com

For more information contact Ubon Ratchathani Airport Tel. 0 4524 5612.

Tourist who travels by airplane or train can head for Ubon Ratchathani first, then take bus to Amnat Charoen, 75 kilometres away.

Local Transportation

The Amnat Charoen Bus Terminal provides Song Thaeos (pick-up car) running around Amphoe Mueang and van services to other districts.

Transportation from Amnat Charoen to Nearby Provinces

The Amnat Charoen Bus Terminal also provides public van and bus services to nearby provinces; such as, Ubon Ratchathani, Mukdahan, and Yasothon.

ATTRACTIOnS

Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen

Phuttha Utthayan and Phra Mongkhon

Ming Mueang

(พุทธอุทยาน และ พระมงคลมင์္ມိုးอง) are located on Khao Dan Phrabat along Highway No. 212 (Amnat Charoen - Yasothon), Tambon Bung, which is 3 kilometres from downtown. The temple's physical surrounding is natural shale under the shades of a variety of plant species that has been renovated to become a "Buddha Park". Meanwhile, Phra Mongkhon Ming Mueang or Phra Yai is a large Buddha image in a subduing Mara posture with a measurement of an 11-metre-wide span lap and 20-metre height from the ground to the top of the halo flame. It is built in the Northern



Phuttha Utthayan and Phra Mongkhon Ming Mueang

Indian influenced Pala art style that extended to Thailand's Northeastern region more than 1,000 years ago.

In 1965, Jitr Buabusya, a national artist, designed and built a reinforced concrete image to cover the former Buddha figure and decorated the exterior with golden mosaics to become an atheistically characteristic Buddha figure of the Northeast. Behind Phra Mongkhon Ming Mueang features two unusual characteristic Buddha images in yellow robes, which are called according to the ancient Buddha appearance as "Phra Lahai" or as the locals call "Phra Khilai" meaning not pretty. They

were found in a swamp in 1962 during area development for weir building. It is believed that the Buddha images can give good fortune for people who come to make a wish.

City Pillar Shrine (ศาลหลักเมือง)

located in the Ming Mueang Chaloem Phrakiat Public Park on Chayangkun Road, was built from well-selected and flawless auspicious wood - Cassia fistula in the Tako Thong Garden, Amphoe Mueang Nakhon Ratchasima. It is believed that the City Pillar Shrine is a residence of gods who protect the city and an anchor of the people of Amnat Charoen.



Phra Phuttha Angkhivot Buddha Image Hall, Suan Si Mueang



Phuttha Utthayan Reservoir

Phuttha Utthayan Reservoir (พุทธอุทยาน)

opposite to Phra Mongkhon Ming Mueang, is a main water resource for agriculture and fishery as well as a recreational site for the locals. Various accommodation is located nearby this area.

Chitsakon Agricultural Centre (ชิตสักอน)

located in the same area as the Chitsakon Flowerland and Hotel at 42 Mu 3, Arun Prasoet Road, Tambon Bung, is a more than 80-rai agricultural garden featuring flowering and

ornamental plants; for example, marigolds, roses, etc. The types of planted flowers will be rotated per each season. Open daily from 7.00 a.m. - 8.00 p.m. Restaurants are also available. Contact Tel: 0 4551 1500-1, 08 1977 5111.

Wat Tham Saeng Phet (วัดถ้ำแสงเพชร)

located at Mu 10, Amnat Charoen - Khemmarat Road, Tambon Nong Masaeo, is a spacious temple comprising a wihan on the mountaintop, a stupa and a beautiful reclining Buddha image. To the north of the wihan is a large cave housing the beautiful characteristic Buddha image. The name Tham Saeng Phet

came from the sparkling rocks when reflecting the sunlight, which makes it look like the sparkles of a diamond or Phet in Thai. This temple is the fifth branch meditation practice centre of Wat Nong Pa Phong under the Phra Achan Cha Suphattho School.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen, take Highway No. 202 (Amnat Charoen-Khemmarat route) for about 16 kilometres past the Ekawan Vocational College, then go straight for 1 kilometre to the junction and make a left turn. Follow the route to go up the mountain for about 2 kilometres.

Huai Si Tho Reservoir (Huai Si Tho Reservoir)

is mainly used for agricultural purposes. Located 15 kilometres from town, the reservoir originates from two mountain ranges, featuring a deep basin. Having a pleasant atmosphere both in the morning and evening, the reservoir serves as a recreational place for the people of Amnat Charoen.

To get there: Take the Amnat Charoen-Khemmarat route, the same one to Wat Tham Saeng Phet. The reservoir is 2 kilometres from Wat Tham Saeng Phet.



Wat Tham Saeng Phet



Huai Si Tho Reservoir



Phu Sing - Phu Pha Phueng Forest Park

Phu Sing - Phu Pha Phueng Forest Park

(วนอุทยานภูสิงห์ - ภูผาผึ้ง)

situated at Mu 7, Ban Ba Charoen, Tambon Sang Nok Tha, features stone mountains under the area of the Pa Dong Hua Kong - Pa Dong Bang I National Reserved Forest with an area of approximately 16 square kilometres. It combines the deciduous dipterocarp and mixed deciduous forests as well as is a watershed of Huai Si Tho.

Interesting attractions in the Forest Park include:
Lan Khwai Tu is a wide rock terrace comprising natural sandstone sculptures of unusual shapes. The stone shapes were a result from the erosion of sunlight, wind and water.

Taphap Hin is shaped like a soft-shelled turtle situated on an approximately 10-metre wide rock terrace.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen, follow Highway No. 202 (Amnat Charoen - Khemmarat) for about 20 kilometres, then turn left onto the rural Highway O Cho 3024 toward Ban Ba Charoen for about 4 kilometres to the Forest Park.

Amphoe Chanuman

Mekong Scenic Point (จุดชมทิวทัศน์ริมแม่น้ำโขง)

Amphoe Chanuman covers an about 38-kilometre border area along the Mekong River, which is a breathtaking scenic route of both

sides of the Mekong River. Especially, at the front of the Chanuman Subdistrict Municipality Office, there is a long frontage road for admiring this spectacular view and for relaxing. In the dry season between February - May, Don Chanot, a large islet in the middle of the River including other islets can be clearly seen.

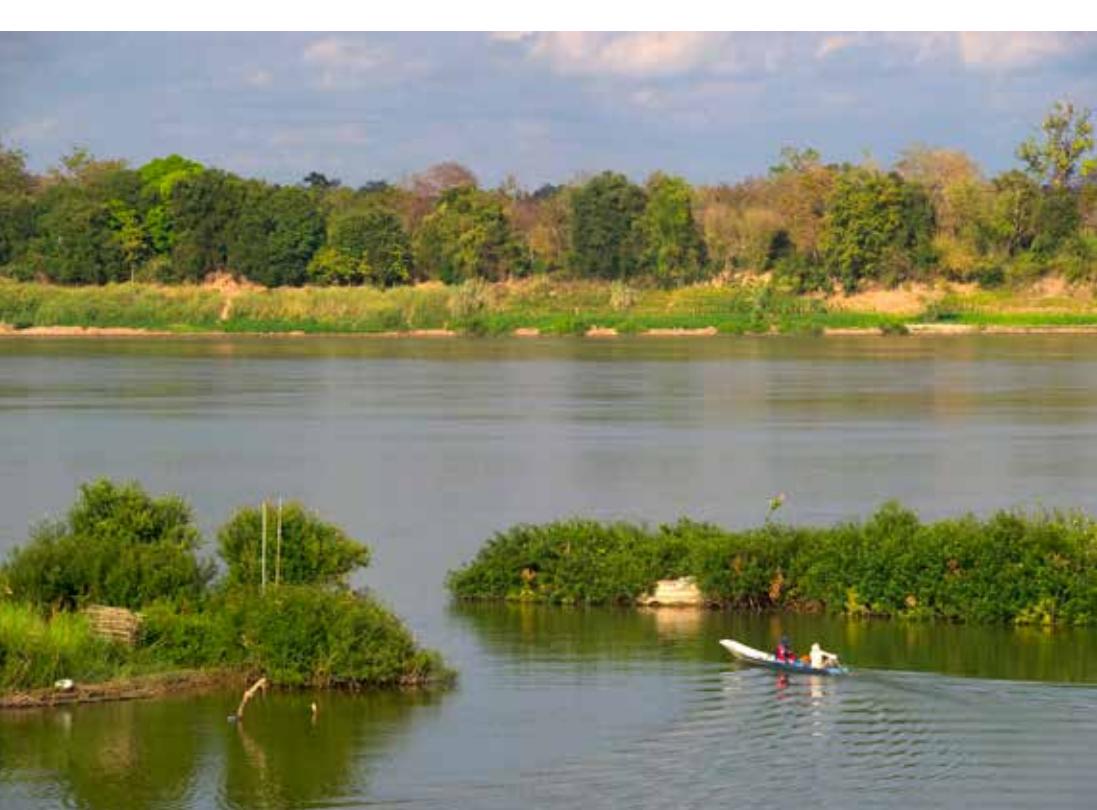
Kaeng Tang Lang (แก่งต่างหล่าง)

located in Ban Si Sombun, Tambon Chanuman, is 1 kilometre from the district of Chanuman. It features rough laterite rocks on the Mekong Riverbank that look like bowls or basins. In the rainy season, the water level will be so high that

we cannot see the rocks; therefore, it is better to visit in the dry season. This spot is suitable to be a relaxing and attraction site. The word "Tang Lang" is dialect referring to a wide and shallow container.

Kaeng Hin Khan (แก่งhinขัน)

situated in Ban Hin Khan, is a group of islets amid the River and a natural border between Thailand and Lao PDR. and 13 kilometres away from the district of Chanuman to the south. These islets are derived from over thousand-year-long erosion of the current that make them look like trays or water dippers. The spot



Kaeng Tang Lang



Kaeng Khan Sung

appears to be popular among tourists now and is a Mekong fish market that creates a major source of income for the Chanuman locals.

Kaeng Khan Sung (แก่งคันสูง)

situated at Ban Khan Sung, Tambon Khok San, features a wide rock terrace in the middle of the Mekong that is clearly visible during the dry season where we can see the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the opposite side. Therefore, a flood of tourists can be expected at this site during the hot season, in which they can swim and enjoy good food from the riverside restaurants.

Phu Sa Dok Bua (ภูสารดอกบัว)

located in Tambon Kham Khuean Kaeo in the Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park, is an approximately 423-metre-high above mean sea level mountain

bordering two provinces; namely, Amphoe Chanuman, Amnat Charoen, and Amphoe Don Tan, Mukdahan. The National Park Office is located in Mukdahan. At the mountaintop features eleven rock basins in which each of them measures 2-3 metres wide and 1 metre deep filled with water all year round. Inside the basins are full of a small breed of water lilies, which look even more beautiful when they are all in bloom. According to the locals, they have seen these water lilies growing in the basins for a very long time, and they are probably born naturally. That is why they named it "Phu Sa Dok Bua" (a mountain of water lily ponds). For more information, please contact the Phu Sa Dok Bua National Park at Tel. 0 4261 9077, 0 4267 6472 and the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation at Tel. 0 2562 0760 or www.dnp.go.th.



Phrathat Yai Na Pa Saeng or Phrathat Pathum Ratchawongsa



Wat Pa Dan Kwian Lan or Wat Pa Si Wichai Suwannaram

Amphoe Pathum Ratchawongsa Phrathat Yai Na Pa Saeng or Phrathat Pathum Ratchawongsa (พระธาตุใหญ่น้ำป่าแซง หรือ พระธาตุปทุมราชวงศ์)

situated in Wat Sutthikawat, Tambon Na Pa Saeng, was established in 1977 by Phrakhrub Sutthi Patthanaphon, an apprentice to Phra Achan Man Phurithatto. He received 113 Buddha relics and installed them at two spots: one at the top of the stupa and the other in the middle of the stupa. The height of the stupa equals to that of the former Phrathat Phanom. It is believed that anyone who pays respect to the Phrathat is similarly paying respect to Phrathat Phanom (a famous stupa in Nakhon Phanom) as well, and the wishes they ask for will be fulfilled;

their powers will be strong, and they will be respected by the general public.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen, take Highway No. 202 (Amphoe Mueang - Amphoe Pathum Ratchawongsa route) until you reach the intersection, then turn right onto the rural Highway O Cho 3012 and go straight, you will find Wat Sutthikawat on the left side. The total distance from downtown is about 40 kilometres.

Wat Pa Dan Kwian Lan or Wat Pa Si Wichai Suwannaram (วัดป่าด่านเกวียนลัน หรือ วัดป่าคีริขัยสุวรรณาราม)

located at Mu 7 Ban Don Nok Yung, Tambon Kham Phon, enshrines "Phra Phuttha Wat-

thanananat Satsada", a large Buddha image in a giving a blessing posture with a measurement of 16 metres wide across the lap. The temple also houses a reclining Buddha image and a Buddha picture sculpted on a cliff.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen, follow Highway No. 202 (Amnat Charoen - Khemmarat route) and continue for about 44 kilometres until reaching the border between Amphoe Pathum Ratchawongsa and Ubon Ratchathani province. There will be a signpost for the entrance to the temple on the

right side of the road, keep going for 2 kilometres further to arrive at the temple.

Amphoe Phana

Wat Phra Lao Thep Nimit (วัดพระเหลา
ເທົ່ານິມືດ)

located on the side of Highway No. 2134, Tambon Phana, was built about 1720 during the reign of King Phrachao Thai Sa; formerly named "Wat Si Pho Chayaram Khammawadi" but later changed to "Wat Lao Thep Nimit".



Wat Phra Lao Thep Nimit



Dong Ling Don Chao Pu Botanical Park

The ubosot of the temple was built in the Lanna architectural style and enshrines a principal Buddha image, Phra Lao Thep Nimit, which is a lacquered and gilded stucco figure in a subduing Mara posture with a measurement of 2.7 metres high and 2.85 metres wide across the lap. The Buddha characteristics were built in the Lan Xang art style under the Vientiane artisan school that was influenced by the Lanna style during the 16th-17th centuries. However, it was assumed that the Buddha image was built a little while after that period since it showed a lot of local artisan's influences; for instance, a facial shape, a stretching halo flame, and a proportion of the lap and feet, which were similar to the Buddha's characteristics in that

group of wooden and bronze Buddha images built during the 18th - 19th centuries. Phra Lao Thep Nimit is considered to be the province's main Buddha image with the most beautiful appearance in the Northeast.

To get there: From the front of the Phana District Office, follow Highway No. 2134 on the route to the Phana Market and Phana Hospital for about 1.5 kilometres, you will find the entrance of the temple on your left hand. From Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen, take Highway No. 212, towards Ubon Ratchathani until reaching the Lue Subdistrict Municipality Intersection, then turn left onto Highway No. 2134 and continue to the temple. The total distance from downtown to the temple is about 50 kilometres.

Wat Chaiyatikaram (ວັດ ໄຊຍາຕິກາຣາມ)

located at Ban Phon Mueang, Tambon Mai Klon, features a 55-centimetre-high bronze seated Buddha image in a subduing Mara posture, which is categorised in the Lan Xang art-styled Buddha image of the Vientiane artisan school. The Buddha image resembles the subduing Mara posture Buddha images at a terrace of Ho Phra Kaeo in Vientiane and at Visounnarath Temple in Luang Phra Bang that were built during the end of the 17th - 18th centuries.

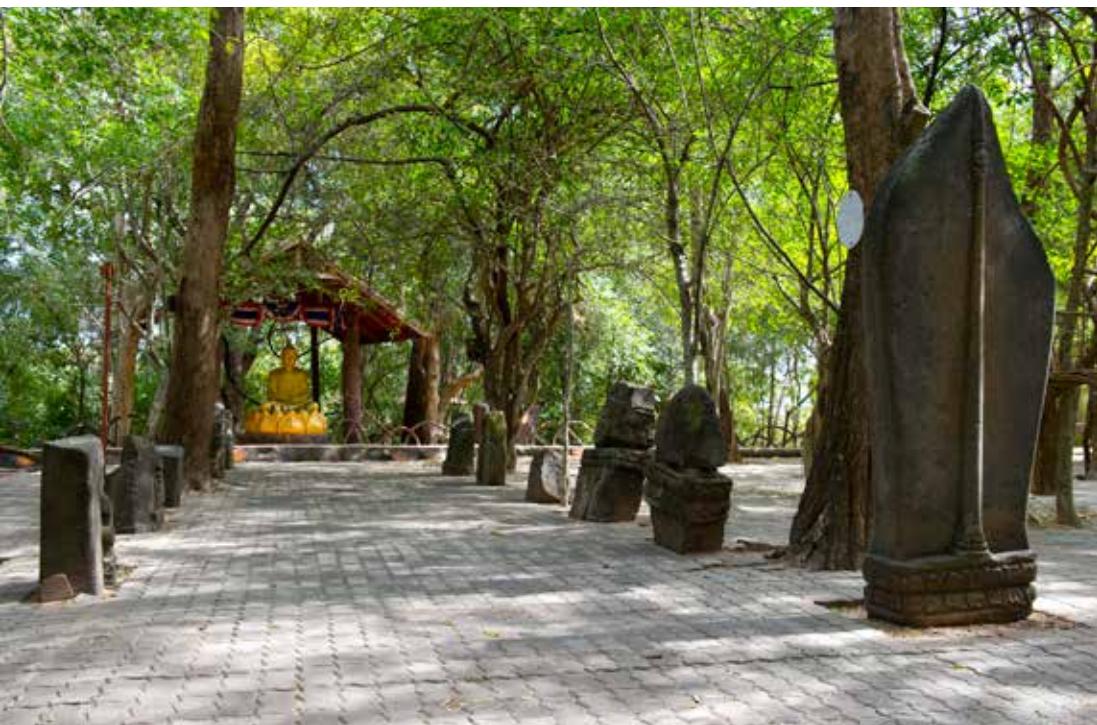
To get there: From the front of the Phana District Office, take Mueang Phana Road and drive toward Tambon Mai Klon for about 6 kilometres, then make a right turn at the junction for about 1 kilometre to the temple.

Dong Ling Don Chao Pu Botanical Park

(ຊູ່ຍານດັງລຶ້ງຄອນເຈົ້າປຸ່ງ)

covers an area of 260-rai mixed deciduous forest, which is a habitat of a variety of wildlife, especially, troops of crab-eating macaques. As the Park is believed to be a sacred place that is well-respected by the locals, it features the Pu Ta Shrine, a residence of the spirit of Chao Pu (Phranthi Phranthong). There are also Buddha images in the attitudes of birth, enlightenment, giving the first sermon, and entering nirvana for people to pay homage.

To get there: From Amphoe Phana, take Highway No. 2134 passing Tambon Phana Municipality Market, then use Highway No. 2049 where the entrance of the Park will be on the left-hand



Wat Pho Sila, Sema Phan Pi Ancient Monument

side. The distance is about 2.5 kilometres from downtown.

Amphoe Lue Amnat

Wat Pho Sila, Sema Phan Pi Ancient Monument (วัดโพธิศิลา โบราณสถานเมมาพันปี)

is situated in Ban Pueai Hua Dong, Tambon Pueai. The temple consists of an interesting ancient site; a large terrace of boundary markers or Sema built in the Dvaravati period and made of white sandstone aged about 1,000 years. Presumably built during 657-757 A.D. in the Prei Kmeng Khmer art style, the Sema stones are spear-shaped with narrow lower parts. The pedestal is carved into a blooming lotus pattern. One Sema's portion above the lotus petal line is sculpted at the axis into a stupa replica or a stupa's finial; at the lower part is a picture of a water pot over an overturned bell-shaped form. Above is a tapering finial with circular mouldings in between. The middle of the axis of the marker is carved into three shallow lobes of an upturned leaf design with a half-flower in a triple arch on top. At the apex is a group of acuminate leaves like a flag top with tassels. The lotus petal design on the Sema pedestal was influenced by the pedestal of a Buddha image or Dhammacakka in the Dvaravati art in Thailand's Central Region. The half-flower pattern in the triple arch is similar to that on the lintel's base depicting the picture of deities clasping hands toward the midpoint that was unearthed at the Eastern door of the Northern Prang tower of the Khao Noi Si Chomphu Sanctuary, Amphoe Aranyaprathet, Sa Kaeo province.

To get there: From Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen, take Highway No.212 (Amnat Charoen - Ubon Ratchathani) passing the Bo Bu Po Lo School, and turn left onto Rural Highway O Cho



Phrachao Yai Luechai or Phra Rit Luechai

401 until reaching the T-junction, then make a right turn to Ban Pueai Hua Dong, the temple will be on the left side. The total distance from downtown is about 35 kilometres.

Phrachao Yai Luechai or Phra Rit Luechai

(พระเจ้าไกรฤกษ์ลือชัย หรือ พระฤทธิ์ลือชัย)

enshrined in an ubosot of Wat Amnat, Tambon Amnat, is a principal Buddha image in a subduing Mara posture in an ubosot of Wat Amnat. The Lan Xang-styled Buddha image, made of bricks and mortar and lacquered and gilded was built during 1855-1861. Since the community close to Wat Amnat that houses the Buddha image has been established for a long time and used to be the site of Amnat Charoen town, many stories about the miracle and sacred Phrachao Yai Luechai have been told

by people who came to pay respect, and they said they had success in life and fame. Therefore, it is believed that anyone who pays homage to the Buddha image will be successful, defeat their enemies, have powers and overcome any obstacles in their lives.

To get there: From Amphoe Lue Amnat, follow Highway No. 212 en route to Ubon Ratchathani province passing the Lue Subdistrict Municipality Market for about 500 metres. When reaching the Km. 55 Marker, turn into a lane on the left and go straight for about 2 kilometres to arrive at Wat Amnat.



Wat Phra Si Charoen

Amphoe Hua Taphan

Phrachao Yai Si Charoen (พระเจ้าไชยศรีเชริญ)

installed in an ubosot of Wat Phra Si Charoen, Tambon Hua Taphan, is the Lan Xang styled Buddha image in a subduing Mara posture, made of bricks and mortar and lacquered and gilded with a measurement of 1.3 metres wide across the lap, and 2 metres high. It was built for over 700 years based on the locals' beliefs and faith in the sacredness of this Buddha image that will keep them safe from harm.

To get there: From Amphoe Hua Taphan, take Highway No. 2210 bound for Yasothon province until reaching Ban Hua Taphan, then turn left onto Rural Highway O Cho 6014 passing the Ban Hua Taphan School and keep going straight for about 1 kilometre, and the temple will be on the left-hand side.

Wihan Luangpu Khao Analayo (วิหารหลวงปู่ข้าวอนาคต)

is situated at Wat Bo Chaneng, Tambon Nong Kaeo. The Wihan enshrines a life-like statue of Luangpu Khao Analayo who, all through his Buddhist monkhood, studied and practised Dhamma with master monk Luangpu Man Phurithatto as well as devoted to Dhamma study, made a pilgrimage into the forest and faced many challenges until fully appreciating the morals. The locals in Amphoe Hua Taphan joined hands to build the wihan and a life-like statue as a virtue stupa tribute to Buddha for future generations to worship and study on his admirable practice. It is believed that anyone who comes to pay respect to the Luangpu Khao Analayo statue will ward off misery and harm and have a pure mind with intelligence.

To get there: From Amphoe Hua Taphan, follow Highway No. 2210 bound for Ubon Ratchathani



Wihan Luangpu Khao Analayo

province until reaching Ban Bo Chaneng, Wat Bo Chaneng will be on the left.

Ban Sang Tho Nok Folk Arts and Crafts Centre (ศูนย์ศิลปปาชีพบ้านสร้างด่อนอก)

situated in Ban Sang Tho Nok, Tambon Sang Tho Noi was founded in 1985 with an aim of promoting locals to work on handicrafts as an additional occupation. Granted support funds from the Foundation of the Promotion of Supplementary Occupations and Related Techniques (SUPPORT) of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand, the Centre offers free training courses to the general public; such as, a group of silk weaving including Mat Mi silk, basic plain silk, Luk Kaeo design silk, and artificial silk

flowers and a group of bamboo wickerwork like baskets, coops and gifts.

Ban Pa Dong Yai Open Zoo or Nong Si Wo Chaloem Phrakiat Open Zoo (สวนสัตว์เปิดป่าดงใหญ่ หรือ สวนสัตว์เปิดเฉลิมพระเกียรติเทหนองสีวะ)

situated at Ban Na Khu Mu 9. Tambon Sang Tho Noi, was established in 1997, occupies a 32-rai area of the Dong Yai Forest, which is an abundant community forest. The Zoo comprises historical monuments, an herbal forest garden, a tower for sightseeing nature in the forest, fish pond, and animal varieties; for example, barking deer, deer, hog deer, hare, red junglefowls, peacocks, Chinese water dragon, monkeys, turtles, and various bird species.

It is suitable for a natural and recreational attraction. Open daily from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Admission fee: 10 Baht for adults, and 5 Baht for children.

MAJOR EVENTS

The way of the people of Amnat Charoen's living is attached to traditions that are the authentic culture of the Isan people. The example of this is **Hit Sip Song Khong Sip Si**, which is a twelve-month tradition that has been long observed until the present. The word, "Hit" comes from "Charit" (custom), mostly are merit-making ceremonies in Buddhism; such as, Kathin, Bun Bang Fai, Bun Khao Chi, Bun Duen Sip Song (Loi Krathong festival), and Bun Song Nam (Songkran festival). While the word "Khong Sip Si" means the 14 righteousness or model behaviours to follow; such as, cleansing the feet before entering a house, making an alms offering in the morning, not stepping on a monk's shadow, paying respect to the parents, worshipping the Buddha and listening to a sermon everyday. Furthermore, the famous Amnat Charoen heritage culture is its unique silk weaving; for example, Ban Chan Lan silk and Ban Soi silk in Amphoe Phana, as well as Ban Pueai silk, Ban Hua Dong silk, and Ban Nam Thuam silk in Amphoe Lue Amnat.

In addition, in Amphoe Chanuman, the majority of people is the Phu Thai ethnic group who migrated from the Lao People's Democratic Republic. They are skilled in weaving the Khit design, particularly; the way they create colours and patterns of the fabric is so unique. Mo lam, Isan folk music, is another well-known culture with the contents that promote the country's democratic form of government with the King as Head of State. The locals have also initiated

to revive the Long Khuang tradition, which is a way of life of Amnat Charoen in the past to be a regular tradition of the province. This tradition is a gathering of young people; women do weaving and draw the silk from cocoons while men will join the activity by playing folk music with local musical instruments; such as, bamboo mouth organ and mandolin.

Bun Khun Lan Festival (ประเพณีบุญคุณงาน) is held annually in the second lunar month or January at the field in front of the Lue Amnat District Office. The Festival features building rice stupas, rice spirit-warming and merit-making ceremony, the demonstrations of Hit Sip Song Khong Sip Si traditions and the way of the Isan community's living in a mock-up house, Bai Si banana leaf offering tray contest, a parade of the Rice Goddess of the village and community, Mo Lam performances, etc.

Bun Khun Lan is a merit-making tradition after harvesting is finished. Villagers will collect ears of rice to pile up at a barnyard according to the belief that rice is a nurturing plant and protected by the goddess, Mae Phosop. The merit-making tradition begins with a ceremony of inviting monks for evening chanting and having breakfast to bless the paddy, followed by the rice spirit-warming ceremony and wrist-tying ritual next to each other among the locals for auspiciousness.

Hae Yak Khu Festival (ประเพณีแห่ยักษ์) held in the beginning of April in the area of the Chanuman District Office, is a long-inherited tradition of Amphoe Chanuman featuring the parade of a large giant model, a villain character in the legend, along the district's main street joined by locals who paint their faces and dress



Hae Yak Khu Festival

like a giant to commemorate the history of Chanuman's settlement.

According to legend, the story goes that while two brothers - Phra Ram, Phra Laksana and Nang Sida (Sita), Phra Ram's wife, went into the forest, Sita was kidnapped by a villain Thotsakan (Ravana) and detained at a pier on the Mekong Riverside, which was later called "Tha Nang Sida". Thotsakan was afraid that Phra Ram and Phra Laksana would hear Sita's crying; he took her flying across the Mekong and kept her in Prasat Huean Hin that was located opposite to Ban Tha Yak Khu, Amphoe Chanuman, which is currently Ban Huean Hin, Savannakhet, Lao

People's Democratic Republic. Both brothers followed and fought with Thotsakan meanwhile Phra Ram's horse destroyed Prasat Huean Hin. During the fight, Sita escaped and waited for her husband on an island, which is called "Ko Don Si Nuat or Don Chanot". The battle went on to the right side of the Mekong and finally, Thotsakan lost. The villain got down on his knees to beg for his life from Phra Ram and Phra Laksana. The spot, where he knelt down has been known as Yak Khu today.

Other interesting activities include the Yak Khu parade featuring a parade displaying identities of the Chanuman people, international fishing

contest, folk arts and cultural performances, etc. For further information, please contact the Chanuman District Office, Tel. 0 4546 6063.

Traditional Long-boat Races (ประเพณีการแข่งเรือยาว) annually take place in October or November at the Mekong Riverbank in the area of Chanuman Subdistrict Municipality, Chanuman District, with a purpose of preserving local traditions and culture and promoting Mekong tourism. The races draw participants from rowing teams from Amphoe Don Tan, Mukdahan, Amphoe Khemmarat, Ubon Ratchathani, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Amphoe Chanuman as a friendship gesture. Boat races will be taken place in the morning

and afternoon and the fair and entertaining performances will be held at the Chanuman District Office at night. For further inquiries, please contact the Chanuman District Office, Tel. 0 4546 6063.

LOCAL PRODUCTS AND SOUVENIRS SHOPS

Ban Kham Phra Handicrafts Centre (บ้านฯ จำหน่ายทั้ตถกรรมม้าค่ำพระ) situated at 106 Mu 3, Ban Kham Phra, Tambon Kham Phra, Amphoe Hua Taphan on Highway routing Hua Taphan-Amnat Charoen opposite to the Chumchon Ban Kham Phra School and about 5 kilometres from the Hua Taphan District Office, is a shopping



Ban Kham Phra Handicrafts Centre

centre of handicraft products of the group of housewives. The Centre offers product varieties, especially, Khit design woven cloth including its transformed products; such as, bags, loincloths, shawls, table cloths, gifts, etc. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Please contact Tel. 08 7876 4851 for more information.

Ban Na Mo Ma Reed Mat Weaving Village (Khit design) (หมู่บ้านทอเสื่อออกแบบ (ลายขิด) บ้านนา หมอก็ำ) located in Ban Na Mo Ma, Tambon Na Mo Ma, Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen. The village produces and sells reed mats and reed mat transformed products; for example, mattresses, bags, etc. Interested persons can buy these products at the village where they are domestically hand-made and available all year round. For more details, please call Tel. 08 7879 3978.

Producers and Traders Group of Ban Hua Dong Silk (กลุ่มผู้ผลิต และจำหน่ายผ้าไหม บ้านหัวดง) Situated at 43 Mu 10, Ban Hua Dong, Tambon Pueai, Amphoe Lue Amnat, the village produces and sells silk cloth. For more details, please call Tel. 08 6249 8512.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

(Two days and one night)

Day 1 (Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen-Amphoe Pathum Ratchawongsa-Amphoe Chanuman-Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen)

Morning

- Visit **Phuttha Utthayan Park** and pay respect to **Phra Mongkhon Ming Mueang Buddha Image** for auspiciousness.
- Make merit and observe the natural beauty inside the cave at **Wat Tham Saeng Phet**,

Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen.

- Depart from Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen to Amphoe Pathum Ratchawongsa.

Afternoon

- Pay respect to **Phrathat Yai Na Pa Saeng** or **Phrathat Pathum Ratchawongsa**. It is believed that paying homage to the stupa is like worshipping Phrathat Phanom in that the wishes will come true whether you ask for success, power, being respected or leadership.

- Leave for Amphoe Chanuman.

- Visit the **Mekong Scenic Point** at Amphoe Chanuman. In particular, there is a long parallel road along the River built in front of the Chanuman Subdistrict Municipality Office that provides a spectacular view and a spot for swimming and eating at **Kaeng Khan Sung**, an island with a wide rock terrace in the middle of the Mekong River that has restaurants (in the dry season).

- Return to Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen.

- Stay overnight in Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen.

Day 2 (Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen-Amphoe Phana-Amphoe Hua Taphan-Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen)

Morning

- Morning walk and enjoy the atmosphere at **Phuttha Utthayan Reservoir**.
- Leave from Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen to Amphoe Phana.
- Pay respect to "Phra Lao Thep Nimit", which is the main Buddha image

of the province and believed to have the most beautiful characteristics in the Isan region at **Wat Phra Lao Thep Nimit**, Amphoe Phana.

- Depart from Amphoe Phana to Amphoe Hua Taphan.

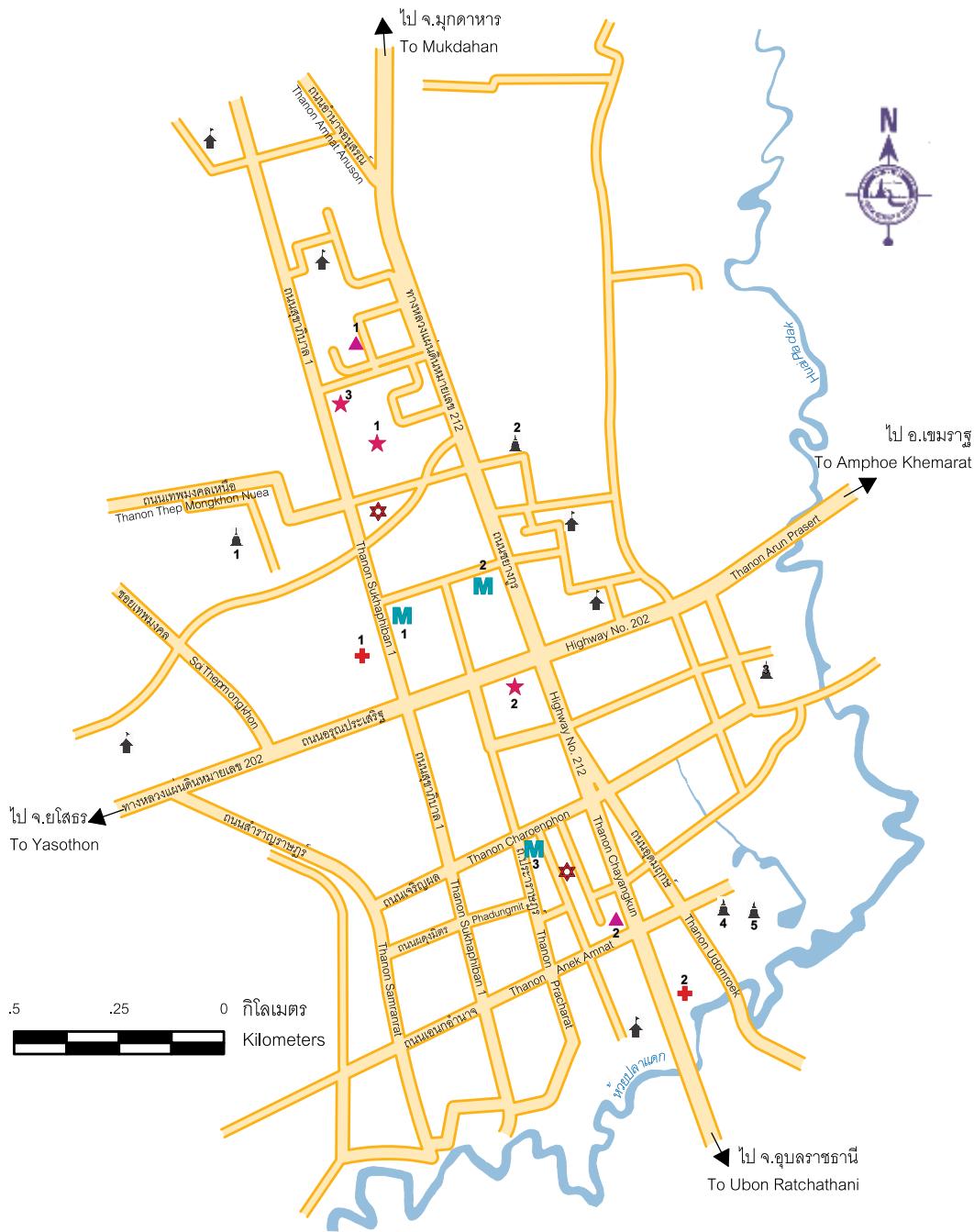
Afternoon - Make merit and pay respect to a life-like statue of "Luangpu Khao Analayo" at **Wihan Luangpu Khao Analayo**, Amphoe Hua Taphan.
- Support the local handicraft

products at **Ban Kham Phra Handicraft Centre**, Amphoe Hua Taphan, which offers a variety of products, especially, Khit design woven cloth and its transformed products; such as, bags, loincloths, shawls, table cloths, gifts, etc.

- Return to Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen. Alternatively, continue to other connecting routes; such as, Yasothon, Mukdahan or Ubon Ratchathani.

Kaeng Hin Khan





แผนที่ตัวเมืองอำนาจเจริญ

AMNAT CHAROEN CITY MAP

วัด Temple (Wat)

- วัดเทพมงคล Wat Thep Mongkhon
- วัดสำราญนิเวศ Wat Samran Niwet
- วัดสระเกศ Wat Saket
- วัดอำนาจเจริญ Wat Amnat Charoen
- วัดบ้านหนองแขวง Wat Ban Nongsaeng

โรงพยาบาล Hospital

- โรงพยาบาลอำนาจเจริญ Amnat Charoen Hospital
- โรงพยาบาลชามาชอต Chamachot Hospital

ตลาด Market

- ตลาดวิชิตสิน Wichitsin Market
- ตลาดสดเทศบาล 2 Thetsaban 2 Market
- ตลาดเทศบาล Thetsaban Market

สถานที่สำคัญ Place of Interest

- ศาลจังหวัดอำนาจเจริญ Amnat Charoen Law Court
- ที่ว่าการอำเภอเมืองอำนาจเจริญ Amphoe Mueang Amnat Charoen Office

สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction

- สวนมิงเมืองเฉลิมพระเกียรติ Ming Mueang Chaloem Phrakiat Park
- สวนสาธารณะมิ่งมงคล Ming Mongkhon Park
- ศาลหลักเมือง Amnat Charoen City Pillar Shrine

สัญลักษณ์ Legend



โรงเรียน

School



สถานีตำรวจนครบาล

Police Station



ถนน

Road



แม่น้ำ, คลอง

Stream, River

แผนที่ท่องเที่ยวจังหวัดอำนาจเจริญ

AMNAT CHAROEN TOURIST MAP

สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction

- 1 ภูสระดอกบัว Phu Sa Dok Bua
- 2 อ่างเก็บน้ำพุทธอุทยาน Buddha Park Reservoir
- 3 พุทธอุทยาน และพระมงคลมิงเมือง Buddha Park and Phra Mongkhon Ming Mueang
- 4 สวนเกษตรชีดสกุนธ์ Chidsakol Farm
- 5 วัดถ้ำแสงเพชร Wat Tham Saeng Phet
- 6 วนอุทยานภูสิงห์-ภูผาผึ้ง Phu Sing - Phu Pha Phueng Forest Park
- 7 ศูนย์วิสาหกิจชุมชนบ้านคำพระ Ban Kham Phra Handicraft Centre
- 8 ศูนย์ศิลปะชีพบ้านสร้างถอด Ban Sang Tho Royal Folk Arts and Craft Training Centre
- 9 วัดพระเหลาเทพนิมิต Wat Phra Lao Thep Nimit
- 10 วนอุทยานดอนเจ้าปู Don Chao Pu Botanical Park

สัญลักษณ์ Legend

- อำเภอ Amphoe (District)
- ★ สถานที่ท่องเที่ยว Tourist Attraction
-  แม่น้ำ, แม่น้ำ Stream, River
-  ทางหลวง Highway
-  เส้นขอบเขตจังหวัด Province Boundary
-  เส้นขอบเขตอำเภอ District Boundary
-  เส้นขอบประเทศ International Boundary

USEFUL CALLS

Public Relation Provincial Office	Tel. 0 4551 1396
Amnat Charoen Provincial Administration Office	Tel. 0 4551 1909
Amnat Charoen Hospital	Tel. 1669, 0 4551 1940
Amnat Charoen Provincial Police Station	Tel. 191, 0 4545 1934
Mueang Amnat Charoen Police Station	Tel. 0 4551 2007
Amnat Charoen Provincial Transport Office	Tel. 0 4552 4034-5
Highway Police	Tel. 1193, 0 4229 5155
Tourist Police	Tel. 1155, 0 4221 1291



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND

1600 Petchaburi Road, Makkasan

Ratchathewi, Bangkok 10400

Tel. 1672

Fax 0 2253 7440

www.tourismthailand.org

E-mail: info@tat.or.th

Open daily 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND SPORTS

Tourist Information Center, 1st floor

4 Ratchadamnoen Nok Road, Bangkok 10100

Tel. 0 2283 1556

Open daily 8.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

SUVARNABHUMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Passenger Terminal, 2nd floor, Exit 3

Tel. 0 2134 0040

Open daily 24 hours.

TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND, UBON RATCHATHANI OFFICE

264/1 Khueanthani Road, Tambon Nai Mueang

Amphoe Mueang Ubon Ratchathani, Ubon Ratchathani 34000

Tel: 0 4524 3770, 0 4525 0714

Fax: 0 4524 3771

E-mail: tatubon@tat.or.th

Area of Responsibility: Ubon Ratchathani, Amnat Charoen, Yasothon.

Updated
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Wat Phra Lao Thep Nimit



Information by: TAT Ubon Ratchathani

Tourist Information Division (Tel. 0 2250 5500 ext. 2141-6)

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